



—Democrat File Photo
Dr. L. J. Graves
... yellow fever

Dr. Graves Was First In Office

Dr. L. J. Graves, Leon County's first health officer (1931-43), who died last year at age 83, reminisced a few years ago about his early battle with malaria. With WPA help he drained ponds, including one where the FSU stadium now stands.

Dr. Graves and the first health department staff—two nurses and three sanitarians — occupied three small rooms over what is now a shoe store at Monroe and Jefferson streets, across from the Court-house. They were soon moved to rent free rooms in the old Leon High School building where Lively Technical School was being established, then they were shunted to the upstairs of an old residence on Monroe street across from the Capitol.

Finally, before moving into the present Health Department building, they were housed in a tin structure near the old city gas plant in Smoky Hollow. Dr. Graves recalled that equipment was just as makeshift as housing.

Leon Has The Oldest State Health Service

For 35 years Leon County has had a full fledged Health Department and in this period the war has been won — except for minor skirmishes — against malaria, typhoid fever, small pox, scarlet fever, palleg-ra and typhus.

What will the next 35 years bring to this community in the field of public health?

Dr. Clifford G. Blich, county health director, answers this way:

"The impact of Medicare will be marked, greatly increasing the nursing service work load. More people will become eligible through Medicare for nursing service and doctors will refer more people to us for home nursing after they leave the hospital.

"Home health service presently is provided by 10 nurses who visit the sick and incapacitated in their homes upon written request of physicians. They make about 2,500 visits a year.

"I see as a result of new demands resulting from Medicare, the need for home health aides without professional nursing training, and the need for physio therapists, speech therapists and occupational therapists in homes.

"The future possibly holds for this community new problems in the field of air and water pollution as industry develops.

"I expect to see in the years ahead almost complete elimination of venereal disease through more public awareness of its danger and more education in the schools and colleges on this greatest modern day communicable scourge, along with possible development of vaccines.

"Diphtheria, tetanus and measles may be almost eradicated.

"I see continued decline in tuberculosis with possibly near eradication.

"Great strides are indicated in treatment and prevention of cancer through possible development of preventive vaccines and improved treatments.

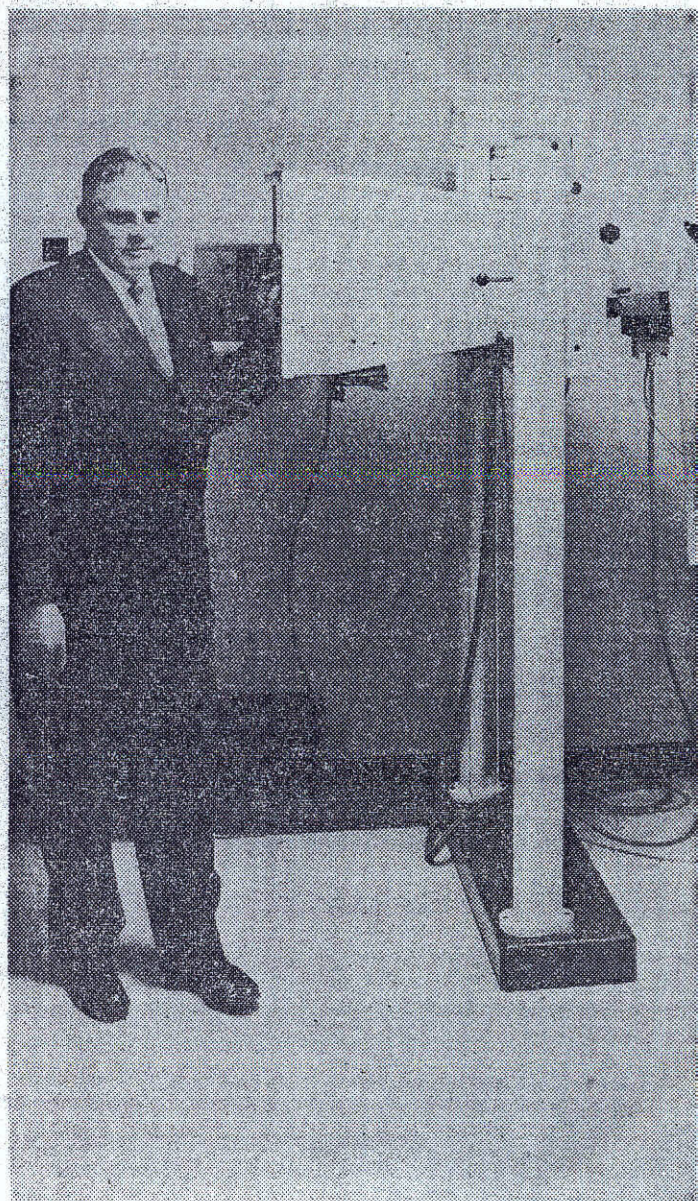
"I expect to see people live longer through modern advances in medicine but at the same time I see increasing incidence of such incapacitating diseases as emphysema.

"There will be increasing problems involving water supply, air pollution and disposal of human and household waste.

"I think we will have through planned parenthood programs fewer unwanted children, bringing about better care of children.

"With the tremendous interest of Congress, the State and local officials in mental diseases, I expect to see through development of community mental health centers less demand for state hospitals for long term hospitalization of the mentally ill, and intensification of the handling of the mentally ill in their homes and in their own communities."

*What's Next
For Health
Program
In Leon
County Area?*



Donald D. Jones Sr. Shows X-Ray Machine
... new building houses modern equipment!